

amendments to claim 37 present on page 5 of the Amendment inadvertently contained underlining under the word “retainingly”. On November 8, 2002, Applicant received a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment indicating that the Amendment contained two marked –up copies of claim 37.

Responsive to the November 8, 2002 Notice, Applicant is resubmitting the present Amendment, with the underlining removed from the clean version of claim 37.

II. Election and Amendments

In the Official Action, the Examiner stated that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-32, 33-37 and 42-43 drawn to a stud bridging system, wall arrangement and method of constructing, classified in class 52, subclass 712 and class 52, subclass 667.
- II. Claims 38-041, drawn to a door jamb, classified in class 52, subclass 204.1.
- III. Claim 44, drawn to a method of constructing a window jamb, classified in class 52, subclass 745.16.

Responsive to this requirement, Applicant hereby elects the inventions of Group I, claims 1-32, 33-37 and 42-43. In the present Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 6-10, 15, 21, 22, 27, 33 and 37. Applicant has set forth the specifics of these amendments on the attachment entitled “Version With Markings Showing Changes Made”. Applicant has also canceled claims 2, 3, 25 and 26 without prejudice or disclaimer. With respect to the non-elected claims 38-41 and 44, Applicant has canceled those claims without prejudice or disclaimer and intends to pursue patent protection for the subject matters of those claims in a divisional application.

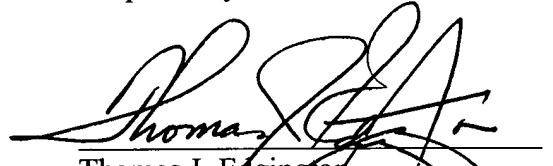
III. Request For Extension of Time

In the event that further extensions of time are required, please consider this a petition therefor. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 11-1110 for any fee deficiencies associated with this Amendment and Petition.

IV. Conclusion

Examination of the subject application and issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date are earnestly solicited. However, if the Examiner has any remaining concerns regarding Applicant's present response to the restriction requirement, she is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below so that those concerns may be expeditiously addressed.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

2. (Amended) A stud bridging/spacing system adaptable to engage one or more studs, comprising:

a bridging member having a longitudinal axis;

a bracket attachable to the bridging member at any of a plurality of locations; and

at least one [stud engager] notch formed in said bracket such that when said bracket is attached to said bridging member, at least one said notch extends at an incline to the elongated axis thereof.

Please cancel claims 2 and 3 without disclaimer or prejudice.

Please amend claims 4, 6-10, 15, 21 and 22 as follows:

4. (Amended) The stud bridging/spacing member of claim [3] 1, wherein said notches extend inwardly at an angle of about five and a half degrees to about eight degrees relative to a perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

6. (Amended) The stud bridging/spacing member of claim [3] 1, wherein the notches incline in the same direction.

7. (Amended) The stud bridging/spacing member of claim [2] 1, wherein the notches have a width of about 0.065 inch (0.16 cm) to 0.080 inch (0.20 cm).

8. (Amended) The stud bridging/spacing member of claim [2] 1, wherein the notches have a width of 0.080 inch (0.20 cm).

9. (Amended) The stud bridging/spacing member of claim [2] 1, wherein the sides of the notches are parallel.

10. (Amended) The stud bridging/spacing member of claim [2] 1, wherein the sides of the notches are straight.

15. (Amended) The stud bridging/spacing system of claim 14 [wherein said bridging member has an elongated axis and] wherein each said stud-engaging notch in said first lateral side and each said other stud engaging notch in said second lateral side extends at an incline to the longitudinal axis of said bridging member.

21. (Amended) A stud bridging/spacing system for laterally supporting a plurality of spaced-apart studs each having a web, comprising:

means for spanning between the webs of at least two spaced-apart studs, said means for spanning having a substantially V-shaped cross-sectional shape; and

means for engaging the webs of the at least two spaced-apart studs, said means for engaging ~~having a substantially V-shaped cross-sectional shape and being~~ removably affixable to said means for spanning in a plurality of locations therealong.

22. (Amended) Apparatus for laterally supporting a plurality of spaced-apart studs each having a web, said apparatus comprising:

an elongated bridging member having two ends;

a stud engager formed in said elongated bridging member; and

a face bracket attachable to a vertical surface and attachable to one end of said elongated bridging member, ~~said face bracket having a pair of first portions which are angled to approximate said cross-sectional shape of said elongated bridging member and a pair of second portions which extend at right angles to said pair of first portions and are attached thereto.~~

Please cancel claims 25 and 26 without disclaimer or prejudice.

Please amend claims 27, 33 and 37 as follows:

27. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [26] 22 wherein said elongated bridging member has a cross-sectional V-shape.

33. (Amended) A metal stud wall comprising:

at least two metal studs each having at least two flanges interconnected by a web, the web of each stud having an opening and the studs being arranged in a row with the openings in the webs thereof aligned with one another; [and]

an elongate member spanning between the webs of at least two studs, ~~said elongate member having a substantially V-shaped cross-sectional shape;~~

a first bracket ~~having a substantially V-shaped cross-sectional shape and being~~ attached to said elongated member;

at least one stud engager in said first bracket for engaging the web of one metal stud;

a second bracket ~~having a substantially V-shaped cross-sectional shape and being~~ attached to said elongated member; and

at least one other stud engager in said second bracket for engaging the web of another stud.

37. (Amended) A wall arrangement comprising:

first vertical surface means;

second wall means perpendicularly extending from said first vertical surface means, said second wall means formed from a plurality of spaced-apart metal studs each having a web portion;

means for spanning from said vertical surface through an opening in the web of one said metal stud;

means for retainingly engaging said web of said one metal stud, ~~said means for retainingly engaging said web of said one metal stud on said means for spanning~~; and
means for attaching said means for spanning to said vertical surface of said first wall.

Please cancel claims 38-41 and 44 without disclaimer or prejudice.